

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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Card 1. An information processing apparatus connected to an external information processing apparatus via a network and having at least one sub-unit for executing a predetermined function, said information processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of the sub-unit;

storage means for storing the reservation information concerning the reservation of the sub-unit; and

supply means for reading out the reservation information stored in said storage means and supplying the reservation information to said external information processing apparatus in response to a request from said external information processing apparatus.

2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising writing means for writing the reservation information of the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus into said storage means and for writing reservation information of a sub-unit of said external information processing apparatus into storage means of said external information processing apparatus when a reservation is made for using the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus in cooperation with the sub-unit of

said external information processing apparatus at the same time.

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3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising comparison means for comparing the reservation information input by said input means with the reservation information stored in said storage means of said information processing apparatus and the reservation information of said storage means of said external information processing apparatus including the sub-unit to be used at the same time as the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus;

wherein said writing means writes the reservation information in accordance with a comparison result obtained by said comparison means.

4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said writing means restricts the reservation information to be written into said storage means of said information processing apparatus from said external information storage apparatus when said writing means writes the reservation information into said storage means of said information processing apparatus.

5. An information processing apparatus according to

claim 4, wherein said writing means interrupts said external information processing apparatus from reading the reservation information from said storage means of said information processing apparatus when said writing means writes the reservation information into said storage means of said information processing apparatus.

6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores limitation information concerning a limitation of the reservation information to be stored, and said supply means supplies the limitation information to said external information processing apparatus in response to a request from said external information processing apparatus.

7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores the reservation information at a predetermined address position.

8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reservation information includes a sub-unit start time at which the use of the sub-unit is started and a period for using the sub-unit.

9. An information processing apparatus according to

claim 8, wherein the period for using the sub-unit is set as an undefined value.

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10. An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the reservation information includes apparatus information concerning the information processing apparatus that reserves the sub-unit, and the apparatus information is stored at an address position subsequent to the address positions of the sub-unit start time and the period for using the sub-unit.

11. An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the sub-unit start time is represented by a binary-coded decimal.

12. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means further stores identification information for identifying the stored reservation information.

13. An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the identification information includes a value unique to the information processing apparatus that has reserved the sub-unit and a value unique to the reservation set in said information processing apparatus.

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14. An information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the value unique to the information processing apparatus is a global unique ID and the value unique to the reservation is a record ID.

15. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reservation information includes weekly reservation information of the sub-unit that is weekly reserved by specifying a day of the week.

16. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reservation information includes interval reservation information of the sub-unit that is repeatedly reserved at a predetermined interval.

17. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means is one of the sub-units.

18. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network is formed by using an IEEE-1394 serial data bus.

19. An information processing method for use in an information processing apparatus connected to an external

information processing apparatus via a network and having at least one sub-unit for executing a predetermined function, said information processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of the sub-unit;

a storage control step of controlling storage of the reservation information concerning the reservation of the sub-unit; and

a supply step of reading out the reservation information stored by processing of said storage control step and of supplying the reservation information to said external information processing apparatus in response to a request from said external information processing apparatus.

20. A recording medium for recording a program executable by a computer, said program for controlling an information processing apparatus connected to an external information processing apparatus via a network and having at least one sub-unit for executing a predetermined function, said program comprising:

an input step of inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of the sub-unit;

a storage control step of controlling storage of the reservation information concerning the reservation of the sub-unit; and

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a supply step of reading out the reservation information stored by processing of said storage control step and of supplying the reservation information to said external information processing apparatus in response to a request from said external information processing apparatus.